



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

**Testimony of Save the Sound
Before the Committee on the Environment**

**In Support of S.B. No. 234 (COMM) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM
FOR CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE COLLECTION USED IN ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS.**

**In support of the concept of H.B. No. 5251 (COMM) AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
POSSESSION AND TRADE OF SHARK FINS.**

**Submitted by Bill Lucey
Long Island Soundkeeper
February 14, 2019**

Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) is a non-profit organization with over 3,000 members and 10,000 activists statewide. The mission of CFE, and its bi-state program Save the Sound, is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring citizens together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Co-Chairs Cohen and Demicco, Vice-Chairs Gresko and Kushner, Ranking Members Harding and Miner, and members of the Environment Committee:

S.B. No. 234 Support

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound (CFE/Save the Sound) fully supports S.B. 234. Several cities already have similar programs proven to work and the amount of solid waste removed from the garbage stream would be significant. Trash without food waste is drier, doesn't smell, is lighter and overall easier to handle, landfill or incinerate. Coupled with an updated bottle bill and single-use plastics reduction, CT could dramatically reduce costs associated with trash disposal while cleaning up litter from the land and waterways. Well run digesters can process both sewage sludge and food waste diversifying energy production in-state with fertilizer as the end product.

HB 5251 Support in Concept Only

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound (CFE/Save the Sound) supports the concept of HB 5251, which bans the practice of shark finning. Shark finning is a fishing method that targets sharks, removes their fins and dumps the living shark back into the ocean. This is a cruel wasteful form of fishing, has severely depleted many local shark populations around the planet and should rightly be banned. However, there are several shark species that may be legally harvested and it would appear that this language would criminalize all shark possession.



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One example is dogfish (*squalus* spp.) which are a few species of ubiquitous small sharks on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. This shark is frequently caught by bottom fishermen in LIS and are usually released, however, some anglers retain them for consumption. In addition, a legal commercial fishery exists for this species and it is used as a cod substitute for fish and chips in England.

The definition of possession should be clarified and redefined before passage so thousands of anglers in LIS don't become criminalized by catching an unthreatened common shark species or bringing in a legal commercial catch.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lucey – Long Island Soundkeeper
Swimmable, Fishable, Drinkable
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